



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
1420 East 6th Avenue
Helena MT 59620-0701
August 14, 2009

Dear Interested Person:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is requesting public comment on proposed 2009 Late Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations, a 150-deer lethal removal quota for Helena urban deer and the Draft Montana Bighorn Sheep Conservation Strategy. These proposals and endorsements were adopted at the August 13, 2009 FWP Commission meeting and represent no change to 2008 regulations except for the specific changes described below. For reference, the 2008 Late Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations may be found under "2008 Final Adopted Hunting Regulations" under Hunting/Regulations at the fwp.mt.gov website.

Proposed 2009 Late Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations:

Proposed changes to 2008 Late Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations below. All other 2008 season elements proposed to remain unchanged for 2009. See 2008 regulations for reference.

Central Flyway

- Youth Waterfowl Season: Sept. 26-27 (2 days)
- Duck, Coot and Tundra Swan (500 permits only) Season: Oct. 3–Jan. 7 (97 days)
 - Ducks: Daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks or mergansers, possession limit twice daily limit. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 5 mallards no more than 2 of which may be hens, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 hooded mergansers, 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail and 1 canvasback.
 - Coots: 15 daily, possession limit twice the daily limit
- Goose Season: Oct. 3 – Jan. 15 (105 days)
 - Geese: Dark - 4 daily, possession limit twice the daily limit
White -6 daily, possession limit twice the daily limit

Pacific Flyway

- Youth Waterfowl Season: Sept. 26-27 (2 days)
- General Waterfowl Season: Oct. 3–Jan. 15 (105 days)
- Scaup Season: Youth weekend and Oct. 3-Dec. 27 (86 days)
 - Ducks: Daily bag limit shall be 7 ducks or mergansers, possession limit twice daily limit. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 2 hen mallards, 2 pintail, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback and 3 scaup.
 - Coots: 25 daily and in possession
 - Geese: Dark - 4 daily, possession limit twice the daily limit
White - 6 daily, possession limit twice the daily limit
- Swan (500 permits only) Season: Oct. 10–Dec. 1

Replace existing *Wanton Waste language with:* No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this part without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his/her actual custody. It is illegal to waste any part of any game animal, game bird, migratory game bird or game fish that is suitable for food.

Replace existing *Game Parts Suitable For Food language with:*

- All birds the size of a teal duck or smaller, the breasts must be retained.
- All birds larger than a teal duck, the breasts and thighs must be retained.

Proposed Helena Urban Deer Quota

Allow City of Helena to lethally take 150 deer between November 13, 2009 and March 31, 2010. Meat donated to local food bank.

Montana Bighorn Sheep Conservation Strategy

Public review and comment of draft.

For further clarification, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612. Comments can be sent to: FWP – Wildlife Division, Attn: Public Comment, POB 200701, Helena MT 59620-0701. To submit comments electronically, this letter with the imbedded link below can be found under “Opportunity for Public Comment” on the Hunting home page at the fwp.mt.gov website.

Proposed 2009 Late Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=fBYeu8alCJU_2bbPF8lhO_2fZQ_3d_3d

The deadline for public comment to be received on proposed 2009 Late Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations is 5:00 PM Wednesday, August 26, 2009. The FWP Commission will take final action on this item at its August 27, 2009 conference call.

Proposed Helena Urban Deer Quota

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=HoyEx9GO0cYuLXWCA8m_2fAQ_3d_3d

The deadline for public comment to be received on the Helena urban deer quota is 5:00 PM Friday, October 23, 2009. The FWP Commission will take final action on this item at its November 12, 2009 meeting.

Montana Bighorn Sheep Conservation Strategy

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=7cyWzwELEilcbxlxxkFrjA_3d_3d

The deadline for public comment to be received on the Montana Bighorn Sheep Conservation Strategy is 5:00 PM Monday, September 28, 2009. The FWP Commission will take final action on this item at its November 12, 2009 meeting.